

SOLANDY FORTE, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Licensed Clinical Social Worker – CT
Licensed Behavior Analyst – CT & MA

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PROFESSIONAL LICENSES, CREDENTIALS, AND CERTIFICATIONS

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| Licensed Behavior Analyst (Connecticut) License Number: 0029 | 2018 |
| Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (Massachusetts) License Number: 2322 | 2018 |
| Department of Developmental Services (Connecticut) Individual Practitioner Qualified Provider for Waiver Service of Clinical Behavioral Supports | 2014 |
| Licensed Clinical Social Worker (Connecticut) License Number: 007424 | 2011 |
| Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Behavior Analyst Certification Board Certification Number: 1-06-2645 | 2006 |
| Department of Children and Families (Connecticut) Approved Behavioral Health Provider: Advanced Behavioral Health | 2006 |

EDUCATION

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| Endicott College , Beverly, MA Ph.D. in Applied Behavior Analysis | 2014-2017 |
| Fordham University , Tarrytown, NY Masters in Social Work Certification for Specialization in Children and Families | 2002 – 2005 |
| University of North Texas , Web CT Certificate in Behavior Analysis | 2002 – 2004 |
| University of Connecticut , Stamford, CT Bachelor of Arts-Psychology Major Founder and President of Psychology Club | 1997 – 2001 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| Adjunct Professor University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT | 2009-2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">SPEC 560-Autism: Nature and Characteristics | |

- SPEC 561- Autism: Managing Challenging Behaviors
- SPEC 565-Psychosocial Interventions in Autism
- IABS 501-Foundations of Behavioral Analysis
- IABS 502-Behavior Analysis and Program Evaluation
- IABS 503-Behavioral and Educational Interventions

Endicott College, Beverly, MA

- ABA 510 – Conceptual Issue in ABA 2016-2020
- ABA 584 – Ethics in ABA
- ABA 545 – Research Methods

Southern Connecticut State University

2021-Present

- Research Design

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant (self-employed)

2022-Present

- Conduct assessments/evaluations such as Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), Ecological, educational program reviews, social skills assessment, transition assessments, Assessment of Functional Living Skills (AFLS), Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLSS) to name a few.
- Provide direct consultation services such as systems-level program planning, training of staff in the implementation of evidence based interventions/procedures, collection and analysis of data, assessment of challenging behavior, implementation of treatment integrity procedures, and cross-disciplinary teaming.
- Attend relevant school team meetings to address areas of growth and implementation of student programming
- Supervise Board Certified Behavior Analysts in district
- Provide professional development to all related service providers in an effort to build capacity with the school district
- Develop behavior intervention protocols in collaboration with school team members

Expert Witness

2015-Present

- Review background records (e.g., medical, educational, demographic), depositions, and other pertinent documentation
- Conduct data analysis
- Provide expert opinion relevant to the case and best practice standards and any other aspects related to diagnosis (e.g., case profile, educational needs, programming, and systems of care)
- Upon request conduct assessment(s) necessary for case conceptualization
- Provide testimony and participate in depositions

Director of Milestones Family Services

Milestones Behavioral Services, Inc.

2018-2022

- Oversee the treatment of patients by managing and directing operational activities of the program
- Conduct assessments/evaluations including independent educational evaluations (e.g., FBA, program review, social skills, ecological, etc.)
- Provide consultation to private and public schools related to educational programming
- Ensure operation of programs is in compliance with clinical guidelines

- Lead MGS team in insurance internal audit
- Supervise Board Certified Behavior Analysts in the delivery of evidence-based ABA treatment
- Responsible for expansion and provision of school consultation services and ABA Global Access
- Evaluate staff performance
- Develop consultation proposal and contracts
- Continuously evaluate and execute business opportunities to expand and pursue non-school based services
- Oversee reimbursement rate negotiations with insurance companies on a regular basis
- Collaborate in the development of and implementation of MBS evaluation services
- Develop budget for the program
- Maintain active representation of the agency in the external professional community

Assistant Director of Consultation Services

Center for Children with Special Needs, Glastonbury, CT

2014-2018

- Supervise and lead a team of Board Certified Behavior Analysts in the process of establishing consultative objectives, conducting clinical case reviews, and identifying areas for growth within their programs.
- Work directly with division director to support planning for staff placement/team organization.
- Participate in performance reviews for consult team members.
- Organize all internal projects including professional development planning, division meeting coordination, review of consult team clinical process, and functionality of all program coordinator activities.
- Support program coordinators with management of clinical teams, conducting case reviews, and monitoring progress.
- Conduct systems-level review of school programs for purposes of identifying needs for program development.
- Conduct case reviews for purposes of curriculum development, assessment and implementation of interventions within school districts in the state of Connecticut as well as the Agazzi Institute in Arezzo, Italy (via videoconference).
- Facilitate social skills training groups for school age children.
- Participate in staff development and professional conferences.
- Conduct all job responsibilities of program coordinator and senior behavior analyst.

Program Coordinator / Senior Program Coordinator

Center for Children with Special Needs, Glastonbury, CT

2011-2014

- Monitor all team members for completion of major program development tasks and formulate timelines for these as necessary.
- Monitor clinical team for all report development and editing plans.
- Guide topic planning during case reviews or clinical onsite observations.
- Monitor staff presentation rotations to ensure that all staff members participate in case reviews.
- Disseminate information for review by the senior program coordinator including general updates on program integrity measures (e.g. data use, teaming, program development, and training), updates on key case-specific issues, updates on program-level development tasks (e.g. cross-training, para trainings, lesson planning, and parent meetings), and updates on program or district level concerns.

- Monitor all material planning and development by members of the team and share in the development of tasks as defined by the senior program coordinator.
- Conduct all job responsibilities of senior behavior analyst

Senior Behavior Analyst

Center for Children with Special Needs, Glastonbury, CT

2007-2011

- Provide direct consultation services such as systems-level program planning, training of staff in the implementation of evidence based interventions/procedures, collection and analysis of data, assessment of challenging behavior, implementation of treatment integrity procedures, and cross-disciplinary teaming.
- Conduct relevant assessments including Functional Behavior Assessments, Functional Analyses, ecological assessments, Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills (ABLLS), Verbal Behavior-Milestones Assessment and Placement Program (VB-MAPP), Checklist of Adaptive Living Skills (CALs), social skills assessments or other related assessments required to plan for client needs.
- Development of Behavior Support Plans and lesson plans to be implemented in the school settings.
- Attend school related and child specific meetings (PPT, team meetings, MAPS, transition planning).
- Provide professional development training series on Autism Spectrum Disorders and principles of Applied Behavior Analysis methodologies for professional development across districts within school districts in the state of Connecticut as well as the Agazzi Institute in Arezzo, Italy (via videoconference).

Behavioral Health Provider

Department of Children and Families, Bridgeport, CT

2006-present

- Provide behavioral services to families of low socio-economic status with children who have complex behavioral needs and are at risk for being placed outside of their biological homes. Primarily working with Spanish speaking families living in urban environments.
- Conduct Functional Behavior Assessments and develop Behavior Support Plans.
- Develop home programming based on recommendations from assessment.
- Conduct parent training specific to individualized behavioral interventions, data collection, and understanding behavior.
- Work collaboratively with community service providers to ensure fidelity of interventions.
- Consult to group/residential homes providing behavioral support and training.
- Conduct parent training series to therapeutic foster care parents fostering children with complex medical and behavioral needs.

Behavior Analyst/Clinical Coordinator

Institute of Professional Practice, Woodbridge, CT

2004-2007

- Instructor for the Positive Parenting class for therapeutic foster parents.
- Instructor for SUPPORT response technique program
- Participated in staff development and professional conferences. Participated in the planning development for children who were being reunified with their biological family.
- Conducted Functional Behavioral Assessments, CALs, CBCL, ABLLS, and other relevant assessments.
- Developed behavior support plans to be implemented in home and community settings.
- Attended treatment team meetings (e.g., PPT, school meetings, Annual Case Reviews, Peer Review Committee, etc.).

- Developed data collection systems, analyzed data and graphed.
- Provided parent and staff training on relevant topics such as use of reinforcement, managing challenging behaviors, functional assessment of behavior, positive parenting strategies, etc.
- Provided outpatient individual and group therapy, case management and development of treatment plans.
- Collaborated with child's psychiatrist, social worker, case manager, therapist, teacher and other treatment providers.

Behavioral Consultant

Behavioral Consulting Associates, LLC, Torrington, CT

2006-2007

- Provided behavioral services to at risk families through DCF voluntary services.
- Conducted Functional Behavior Assessments, developed function-based behavior plans and data collection systems.
- Developed goals and objectives targeting social/behavioral skills.
- Provided in home and community parent training for implementation of behavioral interventions.
- Attended DCF related review meetings, treatment planning meetings, and teaming meetings.

ABA Therapist

Private client, Greenwich, CT

2004-2007

- Provided social skills training for a child with autism in home and in community with peers.
- Provided parent support and training in home.

Associate Behavior Analyst

(Held instructional assistant and senior instructional assistant position prior)

Connecticut Center for Child Development, Milford, CT

2000-2004

- Managed a classroom with 4 students with ASD and 4 instructional assistants.
- Managed rotation schedules and provided direct supervision of instructional programming.
- Developed and implemented behavior management procedures and academic programming.
- Monitored effectiveness of student's skill acquisition and behavior reduction programs.
- Conducted academic and daily living skills assessments.
- Provided staff/parent training and home programming.
- Conducted staff evaluations.
- Conducted experimental and descriptive functional analyses.
- Analyzed assessment data and proposed appropriate goals and objective for IEP/WSP.
- Provided direct implementation of discrete trial instruction, behavior support plans and life skills instruction.

ABA Therapist

Private client, Norwalk, CT

2000-2001

- Provided direct care service to child with Autism using the basic principles of Behavior Analysis.
- Provided training to new therapists.
- Collected data and produced graphs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Behavioral Consultant 2010-present

- Provide behavioral consultative services to families and children without charge in the state of Connecticut.

Board Certified Behavior Analyst 2009-present

- Provide supervision hours to persons working towards meeting the requirements of the BACB to become board certified behavior analysts without charge in the state of Connecticut.

INTERNSHIPS

Institute of Professional Practice, Inc., Woodbridge, CT 2004-2005

- Professional Parent Coordinator for the Professional Parenting Program
- Provided case management, individual therapy and development of treatment plans

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Bridgeport, CT 2003-2004

- Screened and interviewed prospective Mentor candidates
- Paired appropriate Mentor to specific child's needs

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Behavior Analyst Leadership Council 2016-Present

Current Board Member

Professional Member

- Conference committee co-chair.
- Participate in lobbying efforts towards advancing the field of applied behavior analysis and the protection of consumers.

Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis 2003-Present

Current full member

- Held various positions on the executive council for 6 years as treasurer, president elect, and president.
- Supervision workshop instructor.
- Co-chair of the conference committee for 5 years.
- Chair of fall workshop for parents and practitioners.
- Assisted with the organization of an effective executive council for over 5 years to meet organizational goals and plan for growth (e.g., website development, membership growth, conference attendance growth, newsletters, fund raising, expanding membership to organizations and recruiting of sponsorship).
- Collaborated with community organizations to educate and involve members.
- Poster presentation at ABAI annual conference.
- Legislative activities including review of legislative materials, providing testimony for legislative matters related to behavior analysis, lobbying efforts, and dissemination of information.

The Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy-Member 2003 - present

Association for Behavior Analysis International – Member 2002 - present

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Forte, J. & Forte, S. (2021). Advocating for Children with Behavioral Challenges: Ensuring an Appropriate IEP, FBA, & BSP. Invited Speaker at Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates – March 2021.

Forte, S. (2021). Using Functional Assessment to Promote a Successful Consultation Arrangement: Strategies for Success. Invited Speaker Russia ABA – February 2021

Forte, S. (2020). Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Interventions Plan with Dr. Solandy Forte. Podcast with Ashley Barlow. <https://ashleybarlowco.com/functional-behavior-assessments-andbehavior-intervention-plans-with-dr-solandy-forte/>

Forte, S. & Swanson, J. (2020). IEP Goal Development for Viral Health & Safety Skills. Invited speaker on Life Skills Lady – September 2020.

Forte, S. (2020). A Quest to Becoming Culturally Competent. Invited Speaker at Women in Behavior Analysis conference – August 2020.

Forte, S. (2020). Introduction to Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Support Plans. Invited speaker at William and Mary Law School – June 2020. Forte, S. (2019).

Parent Training: Its Relevance, Features, and Effectiveness. Connecticut Parent Magazine – November 2019. <https://edition.pagesuiteprofessional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=61f97af7-e792-4437-8dc8-ae4f307a8e58>

Forte, S. (2019). Taking a Multi-Cultural Approach to Promoting Autism Awareness. Autism Spectrum News – Fall 2019. <https://autismspectrumnews.org/taking-a-multi-cultural-approach-to-promotingautism-awareness/>

Forte, S. (2019). Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration and Teaming. Invited Speaker at Nashoba Learning Group, NH.

Forte, S. & Haray, A. (2019). Transition Readiness for an Individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism Spectrum News – Winter 2019. http://www.mhnews-autism.org/back_issues/ASNWinter2019.pdf

Forte, S. (2019). Understanding Functions of Behavior. Invited Speaker at University of Connecticut – STEP Program.

Forte, S. (2018). Interview with Dr. Solandy Forte on Cultural Competence. ABA Inside Track. <https://www.abainsidetrack.com/?offset=1544623200466>

Forte, S. & Palmieri, M. (April 2018). *Best Practices in Staff Training using Competency-Based Training Models*. Association of Professional Behavior Analysts, St. Louis, MO.

Forte, S. (March 2018). *Navigating through Cultural Barriers in Applied Behavior Analysis*. Behavior Analyst Leadership Council, New Haven, CT.

Forte, S. (May 2017). *An Evaluation of Generalization and Maintenance Outcomes for a Competency-Based Training Package Aligned with the BACB ® RBT ® Task list*. ABAI, Denver, CO.

- Forte, S. & Palmieri, M.J. (March 2017). *Sustainable Change: Models for Effective Public School Program Development*. BALC, Trumbull, CT.
- Dorsey, M.F., Forte, S., Nulty, E.C., & Palmieri, M.J. (2017). *Conducting Independent Educational Evaluations*. Elsevier Science.
- Voulgarakis, H., Forte, S., Giakomelli, C., Bendell-Estroff, D., & Krous, H. (2017). *Effects of Antecedent Manipulations and Social Reinforcement to Increase Lateral Positioning in a Pre-Mature Infant with Obstructive Sleep Apnea*. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, 10(1), 83-86.
- Forte, S. (March 2016). *Evaluating the Effectiveness of Mand Training Using Multi-Modal Approaches*. MASSABA, Malborough, MA.
- Forte, S. (May 2016). *The Ethics of Social Media: Regulations, Research, and Recommendations*. ABAI, Chicago, IL.
- Forte, S. (January 2016). *Supporting Application of Social Skills Training Across School-Age Years: Assessment, Curriculum Development, and Interventions*. ACES BAES Training Series.
- Voulgarakis, H. & Forte, S. (2015). *Escape Extinction and Negative Reinforcement in the Treatment of Pediatric Feeding Disorders: A Single Case Analysis*. *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, 8(2), 212-214.
- Forte, S. (October 2015). *Ethical Implications of Social Media on Codes of Professional Conduct*. BABAT, Amherst, MA.
- Forte, S. (June 2014). *Addressing Disparities and Needs in Unserved Communities*. The Autism Multicultural Project.
- Forte, S. (April 2014). *Using Positive Behavior Supports to Prevent and Manage Challenging Behavior*. Connecticut Public School.
- Forte, S., Molteni, J., & Root, M. (March 2014). *Applications of Applied Behavior Analysis Across Disciplines: Finding Common Ground*. Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA), New Haven, CT.
- Powers, M.D., Palmieri, M.J., Egan, S. M., Rohrer, J.L., Nulty, E.C., & Forte, S. (2014). Behavioral Assessment of Individuals with Autism: Current Practices and Future Directions published in the *Handbook of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders* by Volkmar, F.R., Paul, R., Rogers, S.J., & Pelphrey, K.A.
- Forte, S. (2013). Author in the *Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders* by Volkmar, F.R.
- Forte, S., Palmieri, M.J., & Lungarini, S. (October 2013). *Establishing Effective and Meaningful Home-School Collaboration: A Dialogue with Families and Practitioners Regarding Barriers and Enablers to Success*. The Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT), Amherst, MA.
- Forte, S., Palmieri, M.J., & Lungarini, S. (March 2012). *A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Helping Families: A Dialogue Among Families and Practitioners*. Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis, Cromwell, CT.
- Forte, S., (October, 2011). *Use of Comprehensive Behavior Support Plans by General Education Team Members*. The Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT), Amherst, MA.

Forte, S. & Munday, B. (March, 2010). *Creating Effective Social Skills Programming for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Related Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. Connecticut Association for Behavior Analysis (CTABA), Cromwell, CT.

Forte, S. & Munday, B. (August, 2009). *Embedding Social Skills into Play*. Autism Institute at Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, CT.

Forte, S., (October, 2009). *Sustaining Systematic Change in a Public Education Classroom for Medically Fragile Students*. Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT), Amherst, MA.

Meza, S. (2009-2010). *Applied Behavior Analysis Course Sequence (1st year training)*. Connecticut Public School District.

Fitzsimons-Austin, F., Meza, S. & Nulty, E. (2007). *The Professional Parenting Program: A Look at ABA in Therapeutic Foster Care*. Institute of Professional Practice, Inc., Woodbridge, CT.

Fitzsimons-Austin, P. & Meza, S. (2003). *Increasing Spontaneous Language in Children with Autism*. Connecticut Center for Child Development.

LANGUAGES

- Fluent in Spanish